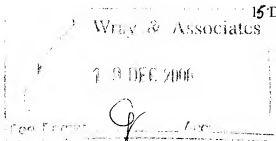


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Your Ref : asp/15159:9294/28337

Examiner's first report on patent application no. 63152/99
by ACRES GAMING, INC.

Last proposed amendment no.

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am replying to the request for normal examination. I have examined the application and I believe that there are lawful grounds of objection to the application. These grounds of objection are:

- 1 The objections of the first report of the application 48478/97 are maintained in relation to the claims of the present application. Pending amendments, the report on claims 1-61 is further reserved.

IP Australia apologises for your application not being considered within the time set out in our Customer Service Charter. Currently the time between request and examination for all work in this technology is beyond that set out in the charter. We are refining our processes and reviewing our work distribution to address these delays.

You have 21 months from the date of this report to overcome all my objection(s) otherwise your application will lapse. You will need to pay a fee for any response you file after 12 months from the date of this report before I can consider that response.

Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN LEE
Examiner of Patents, Section C4
Telephone: (02) 6283 2205

COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION

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10 JUL 1998						
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Your Ref : asp/13803:7837/24071

Examiner's first report on patent application no.48478/97
by ACRES GAMING, INC

Last proposed amendment no. -

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am replying to the request for normal examination. I have examined the application and I believe that there are lawful grounds of objection to the application. These grounds of objection are:

1. Claim 4 is not clear because the meaning of "total gaming device handle" (line 3-4) is not clear.
2. Claim 5 is not clear because the meaning of "coins in" (line 3) is ambiguous. Does this relate to the gaming device or the entire network of gaming devices.
3. Claim 4 is not clear because I cannot find an antecedent to "the multiple payout schedule" (lines 2-3) within the claim.

I have a similar objection to claims 5, 6, 7 and 8.

4. Claim 9 is not clear because I cannot find an antecedent to "the common jackpot payout schedule" (line 10) within the claim.
5. Claim 10 is not clear because I cannot find an antecedent to "the common jackpot payout schedule" (line 4) within the claim.
6. Claim 2 is not clear because the terms "reconfiguring the payout to be a multiple of a default payout schedule" are not clear in context. It is not made clear what "a default payout schedule" is.
7. The invention defined in claims 1, 9-11, 16-18 and 21 to 39 is not novel when compared with the following documents which each disclose all the essential features of the claimed invention:

AU-A- 71194/91 by Bally Manufacturing Corporation Int. Cl. G07F 17/34, 17/32 OPI
22 August 1991

AU-B- 555905 (27572/84) by Ainsworth Nominees Pty Ltd. Int. Cl. G07F 17/34,
17/32 OPI 8 November 1984.

8. The invention defined in claims 1-4, 7-13, 16, 28 and 31 is not novel when compared with the following document which discloses all the essential features of the invention claimed:

US, A, 5280909 (TRACY) 25 January 1994.

Further claim 5 lacks an inventive step in that it would be obvious to have the percentage be of "coins in" if the slot machine used coins.

9. The invention defined in claims 40-43 and 46 is not novel when compared with the following document which discloses all the essential features of the invention claimed:

US, A, 4839640 (OZER et al) 13 July 1989.

10. The specification does not comply with Section 40(4). The claims do not relate to one invention only (or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept). In assessing whether there is more than one invention claimed, I have given consideration to those features which can be considered to be "special technical features". These are those features of the claimed inventions which provide an advance which each invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. I have found that there are different inventions as follows:

- a) Claims 1-18 and 21-39 are to a method of operating a gaming device. It is considered that the features as defined therein comprises a first "special technical feature".
- b) Claims 19-20 are to a method of operating gaming devices. It is considered that the features defined therein comprises a second "special technical feature".
- c) Claims 40-54 are to a method for providing feedback to a user. It is considered that the features as defined therein comprises a third "special technical feature".
- d) Claims 55-61 are to a method of operating a gaming devices. It is considered that the features defined therein comprises a forth "special technical feature".

You have 21 months from the date of this report to overcome my objection(s). However, if you file your response after 12 months from the date of this report a response fee is payable.

Yours faithfully,



STEPHEN LEE

Examiner of Patents, Sub-Section C4

Telephone: (02) 6283 2205

10 July 1998